

U's crush so feeble Wycombe

Sutton Utd 5 Wycombe Wdrs 1

SUTTON UNITED sounded a warning to every side still on the FA Trophy trail by ruthlessly crushing Wycombe's feeble second round challenge at Gander Green Lane on Saturday.

It was a great afternoon for U's because they moved into the last 16 for the first time. Evergreen Larry Pritchard had something else to celebrate with the presentation of a silver tray and wine goblets by the Sutton and Wycombe clubs, as a joint gesture of appreciation for a senior football career stretching over 20 years so far.

The win was U's biggest of the season and was made all the sweeter, by attracting over 700 fans to watch the clinical manner in which they outplayed, outthought and generally outclassed a side lying second in the BIL Premier Division at present.

Striker Ian Parsons led the goalrush with a couple, to take his total to 16, while Micky Joyce, Ray Sunnocks and Graham Dennis also chipped in, to round off a Sutton display, that could not be faulted.

That said, U's could have been two goals down in the opening 14 minutes, when Terry Scott was allowed to get free twice, once he headed wastefully over the top from two yards; then just failed to get on the end of a Steve Long cross.

From that moment on U's superiority was rarely threatened and after skipper John Rains had brought the best out of Gary Lester, with a fierce header, they went ahead after 28 minutes.

Dennis, who shone throughout with his continual prompting

Ross Taylor
reports from
Gander Green Lane

and runs from deep, set Parsons free on the left. He took the ball to the by-line before squaring it back for Joyce to bury in the far corner for his 26th goal of the season.

With 19 goal Terry Glynn kept on a tight rein, U's increased their lead a minute before the break with the trio of Dennis, Joyce and Parsons again involved, before the former Bromley man left Lester helpless with a glorious chip on the run.

Parsons earned his money at the other end three minutes into the second half clearing a Long back-header off the line, with Dave Collyer beaten.

Ray Sunnucks looked lethargic and out of touch during the first half but he came to life with a vengeance after 64 minutes. Picking up a wayward clearance, he accelerated past George Borg before beating Lester with a blistering shot into the top corner.

In full flow by now, U's were breaking through almost at will, with Wycombe's midfield overwhelmed and the defence at sixes and sevens, without the regular partnership of the injured Keith Mead and the sus-



IAN PARSONS wheels away in triumph after shooting U's second past a prostrate Gary Lester in the Wycombe goal.

pended Steve Hardwick.

This obviously had an unsettling effect and was exploited again with 16 minutes left.

Joyce collected a Dennis pass inside the box and was allowed to keep possession before pushing it wide to Keith Waldon. His cross-shot looked to be going in but Parsons was prepared to take no chances and made sure with a toe poke.

Wycombe's consolation came a minute later when Howard Kennedy scored easily from the spot after Brighton referee M. Bodenham ruled that Tony Rains had hauled down Mick Holifield.

It was fitting that the ubiquitous Dennis should have the last word, when he sprinted 40 yards onto a Sunnucks through ball before despatching it past the advancing keeper for the best goal of the match.

Joyce and Wycombe's Borg were booked after a second half skirmish.

Sutton: Collyer, Rogers, Green, J. Rains, T. Rains, Sunnucks, Waldon, Pritchard, Joyce, Parsons, Dennis. Sub: Stephens (not used).